

THE ST. HELENS MIST

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COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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JULIUS BARNES OBJECTS

In our issue of Feb. 6th, we took occasion to speak of Hoover propaganda and mentioned the name of Julius Barnes. Mr. Barnes takes exception to our article. The Mist made several remarks in addition to that portion of the editorial given below, but in the main, it is the portion which it seems is objectional to Mr. Barnes:

"In almost every mail we receive some flattering circular from Julius H. Barnes, the campaign manager selected by some one to send out Hoover propaganda. It keeps Mr. Barnes very busy issuing statements relative to Mr. Hoover's attitude on certain questions, but at no time has he quoted Hoover, who it seems prefers to stay in the dark until there is a popular clamor for him to come into the light.

"A portion of Mr. Barnes' latest 'for release immediately' story reads: 'The situation is exactly as when I spoke two weeks ago. He (Hoover) will not permit his friends to organize sentiment in his behalf, and personally I do not believe he will permit himself to become a candidate unless there is unmistakable evidence of spontaneous and popular demand for him'."

New York City, March 11, 1920.
St. Helens Mist,
St. Helens, Oregon.
Dear Sirs:

My attention has been called to a statement in your issue of February sixth in which you are reported to have said something to the effect that "almost every mail Hoover Campaign propaganda is received from Julius H. Barnes."

It is possible that this is simple exaggeration, which we are all prone to use thoughtlessly at times. But statements like that might tend to embarrass the public service in which I am still engaged, and I believe in all conscience, is not accurate, and that probably as a just man you would not feel you were warranted in making on a review of the actual facts.

I can not recall any deliberate propaganda put out by me, and the very semi-occasional communications, weeks and months apart, which I have sent to the press on the vital question of the national food have only incidentally, and without attempt, referred to Herbert Hoover. As the Food Administrator, and making an astonishing success by appealing to the voluntary sacrifice and conservation of our people, necessarily his name is wrapped up in the history of the Food Administration since we entered the war, and can not be entirely detached therefrom.

I have no hesitancy in saying that, if I were out of public office where I am now administering a peace-time extension of a war pledge of Congress which should never have been made, and doing it as a good citizen in response to the request of our duly elected President, although I am, myself, a Republican, that I should feel impelled by the desire to discharge the duties of a good citizen, to see that the outstanding ability and practical idealism of Herbert Hoover is called into the public service, where we certainly need it as never before.

But I do object to being represented as using this office for propaganda for any purpose except a better understanding of national questions connected with the work of my office. If after reading this explanation you still feel that the statement I quoted was justified (assuming that I was correctly informed) I would be glad if you would point out to me the particular communications which you class as propaganda, giving the character of them and the dates issued.

Yours truly,
JULIUS H. BARNES.

The Mist does not wish to misrepresent Mr. Barnes. It assures him, nor does it wish to embarrass him in the administration of his high office, which, no doubt, he is filling in a manner acceptable to the president, (and that's going some). It does not doubt his good citizenship and is glad to know that he is a Republican. Therefore, our editorial and Mr. Barnes' letter are published.

Possibly the Mist is guilty of some exaggeration when it stated that "in almost every mail we received flattering circulars from Mr. Barnes," but we have a distinct recollection of the letter which caused our editorial comment. The big feature in the letter was a denial that Hoover was in New York for any political purpose, but he was there for the purpose of attending some Childs' Relief meeting or Children's Welfare Society, or something of that sort. Mr. Barnes' letter told us of this fact in a few short sentences and then hit the big subject, Hoover's presence in New York, the fact that he wasn't there for political purposes and the further fact that he was waiting for the "spontaneous, unmistakable" call of the people before allowing his friends and the voters generally to nominate him for the presidency.

During a day, many people slip in and out of little "ole New York" and Hoover could have done likewise, so we did not see the necessity of Mr. Barnes giving us details of his visit and denying any political purpose of the visit when we didn't even know that Herb had been in N. Y. on that date.

If it was not Mr. Barnes' idea to create that "unmistakable, spontaneous" feeling towards Hoover, and put out "propaganda" for Hoover, the Mist feels that he has succeeded to some extent and Hoover's recent announcement sustains us in our belief.

The Mist wishes to assure Mr. Barnes that it does not accuse him of using his office for "propaganda" for any purpose except a better understanding of national questions connected with the work of the office, and does not wish to make any statement which might tend to embarrass the public service in which he is engaged, but it yet contends that the "Hoover propaganda" is and was the smoothest that has yet reached the waste basket of the Mist and that

the boys who handled Hoover's pre-campaign publicity were past masters at the art, and by referring to paragraphs three and four of Mr. Barnes' letter, we must accord him the signal honor of being past master of the past masters.

Hoover has made his announcement, just as the Mist predicted. Mr. Barnes and other Republicans may now have the pleasure of according him their support. It is their privilege, but we yet have not understood why Julius Barnes linked up the Food Administration, the Grain Corporation, the Children's Welfare Bureau and Herb Hoover for president all in one letter if it was not his desire to keep Hoover before the people. He succeeded, so the Mist does not think he has any legitimate kick coming, and furthermore, does not intend to bill him for this considerable amount of valuable space.

PUBLIC FORUM

TWO-MILL TAX LAW

The salary of the teacher has not advanced in proportion to other salaries or to the cost of living and as a result, nation wide, we are confronted with a shortage of adequately prepared and trained teachers. According to reports of the National Education Association, there are nearly 40,000 vacancies at the present time and 65,000 teachers employed who are below standard. The great shortage of teachers and those inadequately prepared to teach are usually found in the rural districts where salaries are lowest. The states in which salaries and standards are highest have the best supply of teachers. In order to induce superior young men and women to enter the teaching profession and thereby furnish the country an adequate supply of competent, really well trained teachers, it is positively established on every angle that salaries must be higher and compare favorably with salaries from other sources. A man will not teach school for \$100 a month when a logging company will pay him \$150 a month for keeping books or when an oil company will pay him \$225 for selling gasoline. A young lady will not teach school for \$80 per month in a rural district when she is offered the same amount in the city with board and room included.

It may be argued, and correctly so, that taxes are too high and that many are wrongly exempt from taxation but nevertheless, the teacher can not be made the "goat" for the whole crowd. Cut the other fellow's salary; reduce living expenses; and the teacher's salary need not be raised. However, this is not being done, and our best teachers can not be expected to continue their work at a fair and reasonable salary as compared with other salaries.

May 21, 1920, the voters of Oregon will be called upon to vote on the Elementary Educational Bill which for the betterment of the common schools, is the best bill that has been proposed for many years. In brief, the bill proposes a state wide tax of two mills to be levied upon all taxable property of the state to raise a fund for the elementary schools to be apportioned upon the basis of the number of teachers employed in the several districts of each county in grades from one to eight inclusive one teacher being allowed for each thirty pupils or fraction thereof. The proposed law does not do away with the present state and county apportionment or change their distribution. On the other hand, it need not necessarily be an additional tax. Most districts now vote a special tax. The millage tax would in many instances relieve districts of the necessity of voting any tax. The chief merit of the bill is that it is a fairer and more equal way of raising and distributing a school tax than the method now used which is unsatisfactory. The principal item in the cost of maintaining any school is the salary of the teacher. The proposed millage tax will raise about \$275 for each teacher exclusive of high school teachers. If a district has one teacher, it will give them \$275 towards paying her salary. If a district has twenty teachers, it will give \$5,500 towards paying their salaries, etc. The levy as it stands, runs all the way from no levy in several districts up to 40 mills. With the millage tax, no district would entirely escape but would have to contribute at least 2 mills toward the education of our children.

The basic principal of our Republic is education as only through that medium can a people be self governed. The government is striving to eradicate illiteracy but doubtless can not succeed as speedily as could be

hoped for by reason of the fact that we are more than 100,000 teachers short and that 18,000 schools failed to open their doors this year for want of teachers. We want teachers who are thoroughly prepared and trained; 100 per cent patriotic, who may train and bring up future generations of intelligent people that will make impossible such tragedies as were recently enacted in Centralia. It will bring forth a people wise and honest and patriotic enough to equitably solve the economic and financial problems that may arise.

Last year 140,000 teachers left the profession. The attendance at the Normal schools has fallen off alarmingly, in some instances reaching 50 per cent. One fifth of all children, who attended school last year were taught by teachers with less than high school education. This alarming condition is nation wide and the best interests of our state are threatened. The State of Washington has raised its state fund recently from \$10 to \$20 per capita for educational purposes. We get from the irreducible school fund of our state about \$1.86 per capita. The rest of the money for educational purposes must be raised by taxation.

For the information of school officers and others interested in salaries, we submit the following resolutions passed by the Oregon State Teachers' Association of Portland on December 31, 1919, which is only suggestive as to a fair salary:

1. Elementary teachers, inexperienced only high school training class education..... \$ 900
2. Elementary teachers, standard Normal school education or at least two years successful experience..... 1050
3. Normal graduates with two or more years successful experience..... 1200
4. High school teachers, College or University graduates or having two years successful experience..... 1200
5. High school teachers, College graduates with two or more years experience..... 1400
6. High school principals upwards of..... 1800
7. High school or elementary teachers retained on account of superior work should have \$10 or more a month extra. Teachers not worth \$10 per month for a second term are not worth retaining at any price.

J. W. ALLEN.

The Editor, St. Helens Mist:

Your correspondent was lounging around the Commercial Club the other evening, and shamelessly rubbing elbows with the dignitaries of the county, just as scribblers in the time of Addison used to hobnob with the gentry in the coffee houses.

While there I overheard some observations and inquiries about the matter of a playground for the children. I gathered that a proposal had issued from some quarter to set aside for them that truly lovely spot called Godfrey Park. The gentlemen present were casting in their minds which of our civic or civilizing bodies should shoulder the work of preparing the park for the children, the City Council or the Chamber of Commerce. There seemed to be quite entire agreement that no added expense would attach to the upkeep and general supervision in view of the fact, as they said it genially, that the City Marshall is a very availing of activity, that no task or difficulty can obstruct his genius, nor arrest the momentum he has gained by years in office.

Whether the City Council or the Chamber of Commerce should assume the work of fitting up a playground for the children, the matter should not be neglected.

Every normal-minded man is deep in love with childhood, with its naive, inconsequential chatter, with its noise and innocent nonsense; he chuckles with glee at the coltish antics of the stub-nosed urchin and catches his breath in delight as graceful girlhood skips across the lawns tossing her curly ringlets in the sunshine. He is prodigal of his pennies in order to increase their carefree felicity and to buy their smiles and sweet excitement. There is some irresistible law in his being which bids him strew the path of childhood with morning-glories. And in obeying this innate law he himself enjoys their fragrance.

Let's have a park of morning-glories for "our enfeebled babies."

JEREMY KRAM

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